



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Denver Service Center

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## Denver Service Center

## News Release

Contact: Samantha Richardson, 303-969-2825

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### Denver Service Center Honored by the American Planning Association

The American Planning Association's (APA) Federal Planning Division has honored the Denver Service Center of the National Park Service with its 2004 award for Outstanding Collaborative Planning Project for *The Cane River National Heritage Area Management Plan*.

The APA cited *The Cane River National Heritage Area Management Plan* as a planning model for other communities concerned with preserving unique cultural values while insuring economic health and sustainability, quality of data collection, and the collaborative nature of the project. The APA also acknowledged the management plan's close collaborative effort by the Cane River Creole National Historical Park, National Park Service, the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission, the parish and city of Natchitoches, Louisiana, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, preservation groups, and landowners to chart a plan of action for the future preservation and promotion of the heritage area. The APA also cited the concise and visually appealing manner of the materials gathered for the management plan.

*The Cane River National Heritage Area Management Plan* will be implemented through a series of local and regional partnerships comprised of agencies from all levels of government, the private sector, preservationists, and the culturally diverse residents of the region. This plan, which received final authorization from the Governor of Louisiana and the Secretary of Interior, will guide the heritage area for the next 15-20 years.

A national heritage area is congressionally designated as a place where natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources combine to form a nationally distinctive landscape. The Cane River National Heritage Area, approximately 150 miles northwest of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is the first heritage area established in the deep south, and contains an exceptional collection of landscapes and structures representing the continuum of the area's history and traditions. This heritage area will serve as a regional planning model for blending economic recovery, sustainability, tourism and preservation in a comprehensive plan.

The Denver Service Center Planning Team associated with this Management Plan will be honored at the APA National Planning Conference's Federal Planning Division Workshop in Washington, D.C., on April 23, 2004.

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